(d) Mud of suitable specific gravity is used while drilling, and blow out preventer (BOP) is installed over the well head. Monitoring of the operations, inspections, checks and hydraulic tests have been further strengthened.

Dual Pricing Policies

*46. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 18th February, 1993 to the effect that the decanalisation of petroleum products in the country may lead to black marketing;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-examine the policy of dual pricing for petroleum products;

(c) Whether Governmnet are aware that common man would be most affected due to the dual pricing policy;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In order to increase the availability of LPG and kerosene in the country in addition to what is available at controlled prices through Public Sector Companies; Government has decided to allow their import and sale at market prices by private agencies. Measures to prevent diversion of lower priced products and black-marketing have been incorporated in the system. Increased supplies in the market will reduce the scope for black marketing.

Recommendations made by Association of State Road Transport Undertaking

*47. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an annual meeting of State Road Transport Undertakings was held recently at New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings had made several recommendations to the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to accept and implement the recommendations; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) An Annual Conference of all State Transport Undertakings was held on 19-3-1993 at New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Association of State Road Transport Undertakings vide their letter No. ASRTU/1419/265 dated 23-4-1993 have informed the Government that the following recommendations had been made for consideration of various appropriate authorities :—

1. National Tariff Commission should be set so as to advice each State on bus fare Structure based on sound economic factors and scientific criteria so as to cover input costs and also to generate surpluses needed for expansion.

   Decisions connected with periodical fare increases should be taken out of the purview of political decision-making authorities and instead should be based on input cost index.